

# 3 FOR THIRTY

Every day, set aside 30 minutes to sit down together as a family to do the following:

## 1. Reading

- Spend 10 minutes reading Matthew 21:18-32 together.
- Divide it among your family so that everyone gets a chance to read.
- Ask the question, “*what stands out to you from this text?*”

### Jesus Curses a Fig Tree

*“18 Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. 19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, ‘May you never bear fruit again!’ Immediately the tree withered. 20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. ‘How did the fig tree wither so quickly?’ they asked. 21 Jesus replied, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*

### The Authority of Jesus Questioned

*“23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. ‘By what authority are you doing these things?’ they asked. ‘And who gave you this authority?’ 24 Jesus replied, ‘I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?’ They discussed it among themselves and said, ‘If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”*

### The Parable of the Two Sons

*“28 ‘What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ 29 ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 ‘Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 ‘Which of the two did what his father wanted?’ ‘The first,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”*

## 2. Praying

- Spend 10 minutes praying together.
- Find a quiet space that your family can gather together. Adults, lead the prayer time and invite your students to join in.
- Ask the questions, “*who do we need to pray for?*”; “*what needs are we aware of within our family, friend, and neighbor circles?*”

## 3. Journaling

- Spend 10 minutes journaling together.
- Have paper and something to write with ready.
- Write down what stood out to you from the text you read as a family.
- Write down what you can remember from prayer time. (Thoughts about specific people, places, or events that were prayed for, as well as any personal thoughts.)

## 4. Repeat Daily